# Iraq Situation Report: August 12, 2014

**1** Heavy clashes took place between ISIS and volunteers who most likely included Iraqi Shi'a militias in the area of Zalaya, south of Tikrit. 18 volunteers were reportedly killed in addition to "dozens" of ISIS members.

**2** Volunteers supporting and opposing Maliki reportedly clashed at a military position located in the area of Abasiay, north of Samarra. One Maliki supporter was killed while an opponent was injured.

**3** On August 11 a VBIED detonated on al-Masraf Street in the area of Jisr Diyala, southeastern Baghdad, killing four civilians and wounding eight others.

**4** Two Royal Air Force (RAF) British Hercules C-130 jets were escorted by several Tornado fighter jets, to drop 15,900 liters of water and 816 flashlights onto Sinjar Mountain to assist refugees trapped on the mountain.
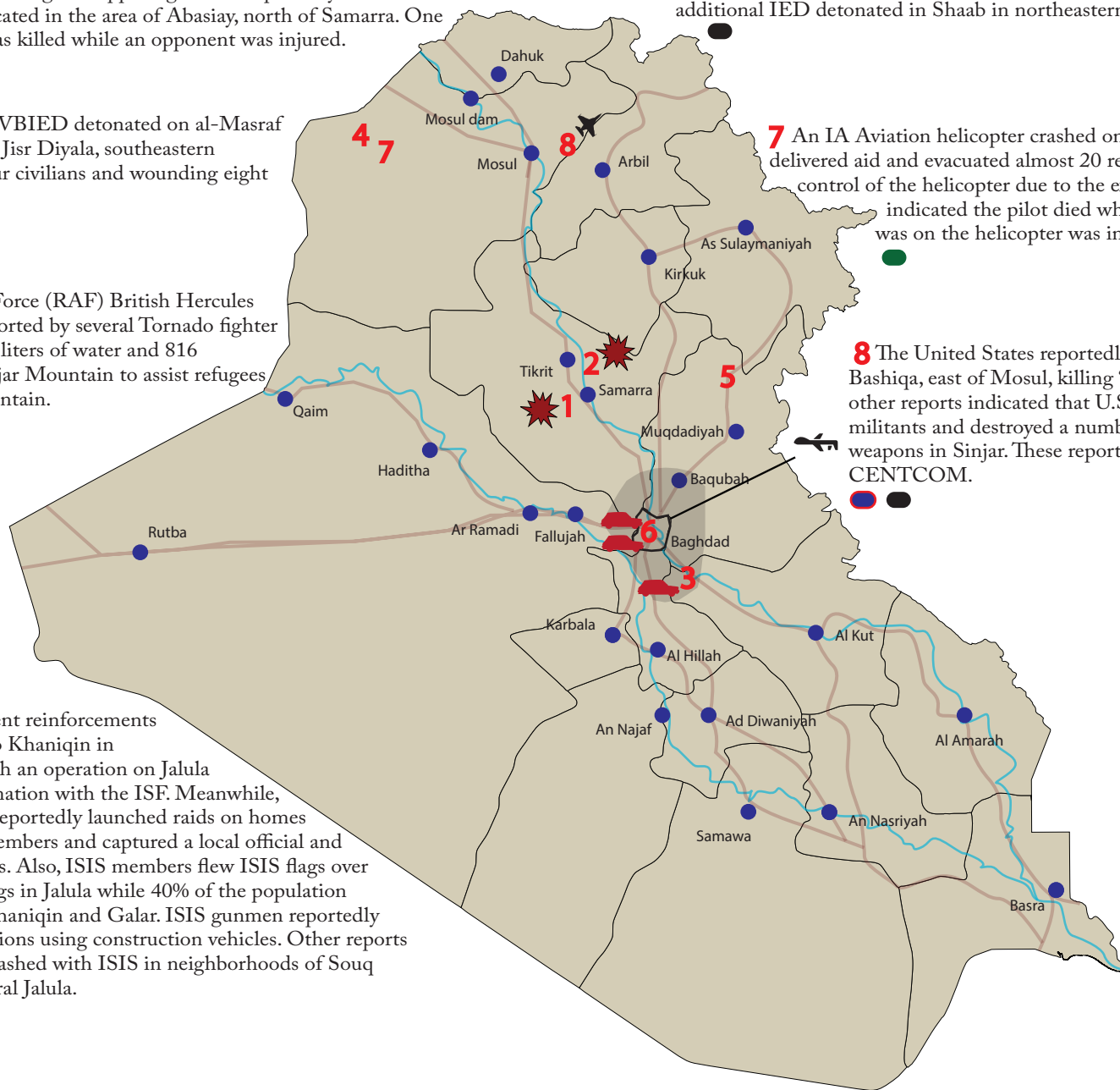
**5** The Peshmerga sent reinforcements from Sulaimaniya to Khaniqin in preparation to launch an operation on Jalula and Sadia in coordination with the ISF. Meanwhile, ISIS gunmen have reportedly launched raids on homes belonging to ISF members and captured a local official and several ISF members. Also, ISIS members flew ISIS flags over government buildings in Jalula while 40% of the population reportedly fled to Khaniqin and Galar. ISIS gunmen reportedly built defensive positions using construction vehicles. Other reports indicated the ISF clashed with ISIS in neighborhoods of Souq and Jamahir in central Jalula.

**6** Two VBIEDs were detonated in Baghdad on August 12. One was detonated near a hospital in the area of Karrada, central Baghdad killing five individuals and injuring 16 others. Another VBIED detonated in Zafaraniya, southeastern Baghdad, killing four individuals and injuring 12 others. This follows a VBIED that detonated on August 11 on al-Masraf Street (see #3). Four additional IED attacks took place on August 11 across Baghdad, in Zafraniyah, Mahmudiyah, Latifiyah, and Yusifiyah, all in southern Baghdad and south of the city, while one additional IED detonated in Shaab in northeastern Baghdad.

**7** An IA Aviation helicopter crashed on Sinjar mountain after it delivered aid and evacuated almost 20 refugees. The pilot reportedly lost control of the helicopter due to the excessive load. Initial reporting indicated the pilot died while a Yazedi CoR member who was on the helicopter was injured.

**8** The United States reportedly conducted airstrikes in Bashiqa, east of Mosul, killing "dozens" of ISIS fighters. Also, other reports indicated that U.S. airstrikes killed 35 ISIS militants and destroyed a number of ISIS vehicles and weapons in Sinjar. These reports were not confirmed by CENTCOM.

## Legend

- ● Major Cities
- ✈ Airstrikes
- ⌖ Armed Drones
- ✸ Major Clash
- 🚗 VBIED
- V Volunteers
- ● Peshmerga
- ● ISF
- ● ISIS
- ● Iraqi Shi'a militias
- ● USA

100km

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Baghdad security has become a heightened concern given the uncertain leadership of the Iraqi Security Forces. Maliki continued activities as Prime Minister despite the appointment of Haider al-Abadi to the post. Maliki met today with his top military commanders in Baghdad and also held the weekly meeting with members of the Council of Premiership, indicating that he does not intend to relinquish power. Meanwhile, ISIS attacks in Baghdad have continued, and civilians in Karrada, a central neighborhood in Baghdad, took down at least one Federal Police checkpoint in the area, likely because the ISF has failed to prevent ISIS attacks, especially VBIEDs. Iraqis living in Baghdad have grown increasingly frustrated that VBIEDs can be detonated despite heightened security measures, indicating checkpoints are ineffective. The perception by many Baghdad citizens is that the ISF is not doing its job. This negative perception is a common attitude regarding ISF checkpoints, but it seems to be worsening. It will be important to watch who will secure Karrada if the Federal Police leave security checkpoints unmanned. ISCI will likely assume the role since Karrada contains an ISCI headquarters. This possible action does not appear to be a popular political response to Maliki or to Abadi, but rather an expression of intolerance for ISF failures in Baghdad. Nevertheless, possible confrontations between Shi'a militia groups and ISF forces in Baghdad is a compounding security concern at this time. It will be important to watch if the events in Karrada spread to other areas such as Sadr City. Elsewhere in Iraq, ISIS continued to challenge the Peshmerga in northern Diyala, after ISIS established greater control in Jalula. This prompted the Peshmerga to deploy forces to nearby Khaniqin, the Iranian border crossing, in preparation to launch an attack upon ISIS forces in Jalula and Sadia, where ISIS has been operating for many weeks. The escalation of Peshmerga and ISF activity in Diyala may reduce their respective force density elsewhere, which may be in line with ISIS's plan. However, northern Diyala also represents a key opportunity for Baghdad and Irbil to exercise a joint strategy to counter ISIS in eastern Iraq.